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SERVICE DATE – NOVEMBER 15, 2005

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-167 (Sub-No. 1186X)

CONSOLIDATED RAIL CORPORATION–ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION–IN
CUMBERLAND COUNTY, NJ

Decided: November 14, 2005

Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail) filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F–Exempt Abandonments to abandon a 1-mile portion of a line of railroad known as the Clayville Industrial Track, extending from milepost 0.0± to milepost 1.0± in Vineland, Cumberland County, NJ. Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on October 20, 2005 (70 FR 61169-70). The exemption is scheduled to become effective on November 19, 2005.

The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) served an environmental assessment (EA) in this proceeding on October 24, 2005. In the EA, SEA states that, at the time the EA was prepared, the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) had not completed its assessment of the proposed abandonment. Therefore, SEA recommended that the following environmental condition be placed on any decision granting abandonment authority: pending completion of the SHPO's review, Conrail shall retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all sites and structures on the right-of-way that are 50 years old or older until completion of the section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f (NHPA).

No comments to the EA were received by the November 8, 2005 due date. Therefore, the environmental condition recommended by SEA in the EA will be imposed.

As conditioned, this decision will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

1. This proceeding is reopened.

2. Upon reconsideration, the exemption of the abandonment of the line described above is subject to the condition that, pending completion of the SHPO's review, Conrail shall retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all sites and structures on the right-of-way that are 50 years old or older until the completion of the section 106 process of the NHPA.

3. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary